Copy

Annual Report
for the Year 1894

To the Rural Sanitary Authority of the Leyburn Union

Gentlemen

Acting on the advice of the Local Government Board, I am presenting my annual report a month earlier than before. This is the nineteenth. With it I lay before you the tabular statements of Births and Deaths in each Township of the District. The year has been a remarkable one. The earlier months were very mild, but were succeeded in May and June by cold and rain. The whole season was rainy, but the two last months were peculiarly warm and mild. The health of the District has on the whole been good. The cases of sickness were mild and the number of Deaths fewer than for the past few years.

Influenza has been prevalent during the year, but only two deaths were certified. This disease seems to have left a decided mark on the General health. Scarlatina has been very prevalent in a mild form. 23 cases were notified, but I am afraid many cases were never brought to notice No deaths occurred from this Disease.

Small-pox was introduced into the district, and on it I made a special report. In all, seven cases were notified, six in Leyburn, and one at Thangill in Coverham Township. These cases were all dealt with in their own homes, and by strict isolation the disease was prevented from spreading Of course considerable expense was incurred, but the loathsome disease was stamped out. I have to thank the Patients for being so good to do with

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29730648

and am pleased that no deaths occurred. Vaccination an Re-vaccination were carried out chiefly with Calf Lymph, and isolation strictly enforced for eight-weeks. The next disease I have to mention as prevalent in the district is Diphtheria. This is a most subtle disease, and most difficult to prevent. I think it was at first imported into Middleham and East Witton, and finding a suitable habitation was very fatal. No doubt it was favoured by the moist warm atmosphere of the year. In all there were 15 cases in Middleham with four deaths Two cases in East Witton and two in Bellerby with one death in the latter place. In nearly every case I found the kitchen sink in direct communication with the drain, and the bell trap often out and very nasty. Some of the cases in Middleham were decidedly due to the dirty state of the houses, and want of proper accomodation. I think the disease is now gone. One very mild case of Typhoid fever at Finghall Station was notified. Whooping Cough was prevalent for a time, but in a mild form, as also Measles. Diarrhoea was almost absent. Heart disease was the cause of 15 deaths. This disease is always common in this district and I cannot account for it. Phthisis was the cause of nine deaths I hoped this disease was growing less in the district but I am afraid it is not so. At present we have little control over it. Only two Inquests were held during the year. The Sanitary state of the District on the whole has been good.

Referring to the tables I lay before you, I find that the Births registered during the year were 144 against 173 in 1893, giving a rate per 1000, of a little over 20 against 24 per 1000 in 1893. The number of deaths from all causes was 101, or a little over 14

per 1000 for the whole district. Some of the Townships had no deaths, but this average is for the whole union and I think it fairly good. Out of this number 22 were over 70 years of age, 18 over 80 and 2 over 90, making 42 over 70 years. 20 were certified as dying of Natural Decay. The usual amount of Nuisances have been brought to notice and have been dealt with by your Inspector or brought before you.

I would now bring to your notice the state of the Water supply of the district, which I think most essential to the general health. On the whole the different townships are well supplied, but I must complain of the short supply still existing in Leyburn. Harmby is I think worse off than ever and something ought to be done for the place. Spenni-thorne is practically without a supply, but I understand that this will be put right. Finghall is also without a proper supply and ought to be looked to. I would call attention to the state of the Drainage of East Witton. This matter has been before you for some time and I hope will soon be attended to. I know that the drainage of most of the villages is not what it might be expected to be, but so far I think I cannot complain as a whole. I may add that we are always glad to receive notice of any nuisance, and your Inspector will give every attention to any complaint.

I am, Gentlemen

Your obedient servant
R. Metcalfe M.D.
Medical Officer of Health

February 8th 1895

Lm